

*Artists*

## **Bloodgood Sculpture Makes Giving Fun at the ACM**

Craig Bloodgood's sculptures of salvaged wood and found objects are typically interactive gizmos that playfully engage the viewer.

His work has been included in 7 exhibitions at the Art Complex Museum, including several Duxbury Art Assn winter juried shows as well as "After Hours," a 1997 exhibition of art by art educators.

The staff at the museum couldn't help but observe that visitors were consistently drawn to Bloodgood's pieces. His Rube Goldberg-esque "Tax Advisor" had children and adults alike popping golf balls down steep revenue ramps, and sliding open little deduction doors. So when the museum wanted to install a more visible contribution box at the museum's entrance, they approached Bloodgood with the idea.

The result is a "Ante Up," a 52 inch tall, 14-inch square tower that will encourage contributions to the museum, and reward generosity with whimsy and fun. Money goes into the top. A croquet ball tops the stick-shift lever, which is pulled to send the bucks on their way, working a pulley that pops up a clever "thank you" sign.

The museum commission adds the Art Complex to the list of Bloodgood patrons that includes the irreverent rock group Aerosmith as well as the more reverent St. John's Episcopal Church in Duxbury.

"Ante Up," created in Bloodgood's studio at the Codman Building in Rockland consists of more than 100 different pieces of wood and metal, including parts from 2 pianos, 2 beds, a chest of boards, a table top, a door, a bathroom wall and a croquet set.

The Art Complex Museum recently initiated an annual appeal for the first time in its 26-year history, and the director and staff have been pleased by the public response. Free admission has been a part of the museum's policy since its beginning. However, audience and artist expectations for more sophisticated and ambitious exhibitions have raised expenditures at the museum, and contributions will be whole-heartedly encouraged.

"As the museum asks the community to participate in our support, it is appropriate to be able to support an artist from our community by having him create this new contribution box," says ACM Director Charles Weyerhaeuser.